

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 12

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Major General Frederick Harwood Forster of Blount County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Major General Frederick Harwood “Fred” Forster of Blount County; and

WHEREAS, Major General Forster was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, following his graduation from Knoxville West High School in 1964, Mr. Forster matriculated to the University of the South, from which he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature in 1968. He then attended Troy State University, from which he earned his Master of Science degree in Foundations of Education in 1972; and

WHEREAS, Frederick Forster was a proud and valorous member of this nation’s armed services, and compiled a sterling career of military service; and

WHEREAS, Major General Forster first entered the United States Air Force in September of 1968 after receiving his commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of the South; and

WHEREAS, a talented pilot with more than 4,500 hours of flight experience, he served eight years of extended active duty as a T-38 instructor pilot, a KC-135 pilot and instructor pilot, and as an operations plans officer at Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base in Thailand before joining the Tennessee Air National Guard in October of 1976; and

WHEREAS, General Forster, after assignments as group plans officer and aircraft maintenance officer, was assigned command of the 134th Air Refueling Group in December of

1987. Rising steadily through the ranks, General Forster was promoted to Colonel in July of 1987, to Brigadier General in November of 1998, and to Major General in July of 2002; and

WHEREAS, he honorably served as the Chief of Staff of the Air National Guard from November of 1998 until July of 2002, when he was named to the post of Assistant Adjutant General for Air for the State of Tennessee, a position in which he served with acumen and alacrity until his retirement in May of 2003; and

WHEREAS, throughout his professional military career, General Forster exhibited a relentless pursuit of excellence and knowledge. He was a Distinguished Graduate of the Squadron Officer School in 1971, attended a seminar at the Air Command and Staff College in 1982, earned Commandant's List honors at a seminar at the Army Command General Staff College in 1982, attended a seminar at the Air War College in 1986, completed the Senior Seminar for the Department of State in 1994, and attended the United States Chamber Institute for Organizational Management in 2004; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, General Frederick Forster earned a number of military decorations during his long and storied career, including the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Tennessee Distinguished Service Medal, among a host of other awards, medals, and ribbons; and

WHEREAS, Frederick Forster was an active and important part of his community, participating in numerous worthy organizations, including the National Guard Association of Tennessee, which he served as President, the Air Force Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Kiwanis Club of Alcoa, the Knoxville Civitan Club, Alpha Tau Omega, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Blue Key, and he lent his support to the Boy Scouts of America Great Smokey Mountain Council, which selected him as the Citizen of the Year in 1992 and the recipient of the Silver Beaver Award in 2007, and the Volunteer Chapter of Public Relations Society of America, which bestowed upon him the Community Service Award in 2000; and

WHEREAS, General Forster dedicated his leadership abilities to a number of civic organizations, serving on the boards of directors of United Way of Blount County, Technology 2020, Tennessee's Resource Valley, the Blount Memorial Hospital Foundation, Goodwill

Industries of Knoxville, the Dogwood Arts Festival of Knoxville, the Blount County Chamber Foundation, the Bank of East Tennessee, Youth Service USA of Knoxville, First Tennessee Bank, and the Blount County Education Foundation; he has rendered sterling service as the chairman of a number of organizations, including Nine Counties One Vision, the Blount County Chamber of Commerce, and the Campaign Committee of the United Way of Blount County, and is a graduate of Leadership Blount County and Leadership Knoxville; he served on the Maryville-Alcoa Blount County Recreation and Parks Commission and was a member of the Chancellor's Associates of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, widely known for his entrepreneurial work with Blount Partnership, of which he stood as the Chief Executive Officer for more than ten years, General Forster also worked with the Tennessee Economic Development Agency, the Maryville College National Advisory Committee, the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority, the Tremont Board of Directors, the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Executives Board of Directors, Goodwill Industries of Knoxville, the ALCOA Scholarship Selection Committee, and Relay for Life; and

WHEREAS, he was a devout member of the Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, which he served for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, Frederick Forster was also deeply devoted to his family, and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his father, M. G. Forster, and his brother, John C. Forster; and

WHEREAS, General Forster enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Carolyn DeLozier Forster, and was the proud father of Joy Forster Carver, Rebecca Forster, and Katherine Forster Watson; and

WHEREAS, he will also be sorely missed by his grandchildren, Drew Carver and Caroline Carver, his mother, Harriet Canterbury Forster, his sister, Jane Forster Wacaster, his aunt, Anne C. Speake, and several nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Forster exemplified the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean and leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity

and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Major General Frederick Harwood Forster, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of General Forster.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.